

FORT McCoy, BUILDING T-2002 (GUEST HOUSE)
(Camp McCoy, Building T-2002 (Guest House))
Fort McCoy
Sparta vicinity
Monroe County
Wisconsin

HABS NO. WI-308-F

HABS
WIS,
41-SPAR.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT McCOY, BUILDING T-2002 (GUEST HOUSE)
[Camp McCoy, Building T-2002, (Guest House)]
HABS NO. WI-308-F

Location: Building T-2002 is located approximately 100' east of the intersection of South Eleventh Avenue and West Twelfth Avenue, in Block 21 of the cantonment of the Main Post of Fort McCoy, in Monroe County, Wisconsin.¹

USGS Quadrangle Alderwood Lake, Wisconsin; 7.5 minute series 1983 (photorevised from 1978). UTM Coordinates: Zone 15: 4875720 N 683920 E.

Present Owner: Department of the Army

Original Use: Guest House

Present Use: Unused.

Significance: Building T-2002 is significant as a relatively unmodified representative of a guest house. It represents one of two guest houses constructed at Fort McCoy in 1942.² Of these two, the other has undergone major interior alterations.³

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Construction of Building T-2002 probably began in the summer of 1942. The Real Property Records on file in Buildings 2160 and 2145 note the building as completed on 21 October 1942.⁴
2. Architect: Col. Hugh J. Casey in the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps, supervised the 1941 revision of the 700 series standardized drawings of which building plan 700-1290 was part.⁵
3. Original and subsequent owners: The site for the expanded Camp McCoy military reservation was condemned and purchased by the War Department in the spring of 1942.⁶ The owner from 1942-47 was the War Department. Since 1947, the U.S. Department of the Army, the successor to the War Department, has held title.
4. Builder, contract suppliers: Building T-2002 was part of construction area D at Fort McCoy. Bids for the construction of the cantonment were let in February 1942 and fixed-price contracts for seven principal construction areas were awarded in late March. The War Department purchased the lumber used in Building T-2002 and the rest of the cantonment in the spring of 1942. The remaining materials were apparently purchased by subcontractors in the Wisconsin area.⁷

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5. Original Plans and Construction: No original "As Built" drawings for building plan 700-1290 were located in Building 2111 at Fort McCoy. The plans filed with the structure data for Building T-2002 are those specified for a 700-3560 structure, Womens Army Auxillary Barracks. The exterior sizes and details for these barracks are similar to the guest house exterior and may have been substituted at a later date after loss of the originals. The original cost of the building was \$32,406.⁸ Alterations to the original building plan at the time of construction are unknown due to the lack of "As Built" plans.
6. Alterations and additions: On the exterior, the grayish white cement asbestos siding has been replaced in a few places with white siding of similar size. The exterior of the structure was repainted in 1957, 1958 and 1964. The interior corridors were re-lined with linoleum in 1951.⁹ The building was re-roofed with red asphalt shingles at an unknown date.

B. Historical Context:

The construction of Building T-2002 was part of a massive, nation-wide mobilization program designed to build cantonments in which to house and train the expanded World War II Army. The 800 series, and the 700 series that preceded it, was a comprehensive set of drawings which could be used interchangeably in creating the various building types. Through the construction of wood temporary buildings such as the T-2002, the 1939 housing capacity of 200,000 persons was raised to 6,000,000 by the close of the mobilization program in the fall of 1944. In addition, war mobilization buildings are significant for their construction and technological innovation. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, the fabrication of units, and assembly-line approach to construction were largely developed in the construction of these mobilization structures.

Building T-2002 was one of two guest houses constructed in the main cantonment area of the "New Camp McCoy," a mobilization cantonment built by the War Department between the entrance of the United States into World War II late in 1941 and early 1943.¹⁰ The 1941-1943 cantonments were constructed to house and serve as training bases for approximately 525,000 men drafted for Army service after the declaration of war.¹¹ Two newly organized Army Divisions occupied Camp McCoy during their training. The Second Army Division arrived soon after the completion of construction in the fall of 1942 and remained until November 1943, leaving for action in the Italian Campaign. The 76th Division then took over, remaining until December 1944, when they departed for service in the Battle of the Bulge and the subsequent occupation of Germany. Initially, engineer, railhead, field artillery, tank destroyer, ordnance, and maintenance troops were trained at Camp McCoy concurrently with the Second and 76th Divisions.¹² In 1944, Camp McCoy also became a personnel center for the Army, receiving and redirecting soldiers for new assignments. The following year the personnel center began also to discharge veterans as the war came to a close. The personnel center closed in 1946, and most other functions of the camp halted a year later.¹³

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After three years of relative inactivity, Camp McCoy was reactivated by the Defense Department for training of Regular, Reserve, and National Guard Units in the Fifth Army Area for service in the Korean War. Since 1953 the camp has become a center for training reserve units of the Army and National Guard Regiments of the Midwest Region.¹⁴

After construction, Building T-2002 was assigned to Special Services. In 1956 the building served as an Officers Snack Bar. In 1957, it was reassigned to Special Services until deactivation in 1969.¹⁵

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building T-2002 is a well preserved relatively unmodified example of a typical 700 series guest house. On the basis of visual inspection and historical documentation, Building T-2002 appears to be the least altered of the remaining two guest houses at Fort McCoy.
2. Condition of Fabric: The general condition of Building T-2002 is good. Deterioration areas noted in the structure's exterior include areas where the original cement asbestos siding has fallen off and been replaced and some warping where flaking paint has exposed the end grain of some exterior wood beams. No significant deterioration was noted in the structure's interior.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Building T-2002 is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 130' in length and 29'-6" in width. This is the same width as Buildings T-100 and T-1863. The height from grade to the roof ridge is approximately 31'. The free-standing chimney has been removed but would have originally stood 4'-0" over the roof ridge.
2. Foundations: The foundation of Building T-2002 consists of rows of round concrete piers on concrete footings. This was not confirmed in the field but in the drawings available. The crawl space below the guest house is screened with concrete block skirting.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of Building T-2002 consist of three layers: wooden sheathing, black construction paper, and cement asbestos siding measuring 11" x 24", the standard size used throughout the cantonment.
4. Structural System, framing: The structure consists of light wood frame with a pitched truss roof.

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5. Porches, stoops: Building T-2002, like all 2942 cantonment buildings at McCoy, has poured concrete steps with cast-iron railings at the front, rear and side entrances. There are two eighteen-riser stairways leading to the second floor at the front and rear elevations. The stairways have plain square balustrades and are not covered.
6. Chimneys: The chimney has been removed. The chimney was probably, like all others at McCoy, constructed of red brick in a running bond with Portland cement mortar and was free-standing. When in use the chimney served as exhaust for the fuses emitted from the coal-burning furnace.¹⁶
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: At the front and rear of the building a four-light two-panel door was used at the first- and second-floor entries to the guest house. A first-floor entry is located at the east wall and contains a single four-light two-panel door. No notes on door specifications for guest houses were available in the "As Built" files in Building T-2111.
 - b. Windows: The east side has twenty-three, eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash windows (quarters) and five, four-over-four-light double-hung sash windows (bathrooms/toilets). The west side has eighteen, eight-over-eight-light double-hung sash windows (stair well, quarters) and five, four-over-four-light (bathroom, boiler room). The front has four, eight-over-eight-light double-hung windows. The rear has four, eight-over-eight-light double-hung windows. All windows have simple architraves and screens.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: There is no basement under Building T-2002. The crawl space is at grade.
 - b. Main Floor: Building T-2002, as constructed in 1942, had a total square footage of 7,670'. There are five, three-bed suites, thirty-two bedrooms, three baths, and a heater room.
 - c. Attic: The attic space above the main floor contains the trusses.
2. Stairways: There is a turned fifteen-riser stairway with a central landing leading from the first-floor corridor to the second floor. The stairway is located directly opposite the east side entry.

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3. Flooring: The structure has hardwood floors. The flooring has been covered with checkerboard linoleum in the east side entry, and brown linoleum in the corridors.
4. Wall and Ceiling finishes: All wallboard surfaces in the interior have been painted.
5. Openings: The interior doors to the suites, bedrooms, bathrooms/toilets, and boiler room are three-paneled doors. No notes on door specifications for guest houses were available in the "As Built" files in Building T-2111.
6. Hardware: The original galvanized metal knobs and rim locks survive on all exterior and interior doors. The original hardware on all of the double-hung windows also remains. The original toilet fixtures and hall fountains have also been retained. Interior and exterior lighting fixtures also remain. The enameled porcelain reflector bowls have been removed from many of the light fixtures.
7. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: The structure was heated by a coal-fired steam boiler. Heat was dissipated via heating ducts and steam radiators. A Wagner electric blower unit was added to the system in September 1943.¹⁷ An electric coal stoker was installed in the heating plant in 1976.¹⁸
 - b. Ventilation: The structure is vented through two fixed wooden louvers in the attic at the gable ends and through screen openings in the ceiling of the second floor.
 - c. Lighting: The front and rear first- and second-floor entries and the side entrance are lighted by single 100-watt fixtures attached directly above the entrances. Internal lighting consist of single sixty-watt fixtures in each room and a row of sixty-watt fixtures in the first- and second-floor corridors, entries and stairwell. The enameled porcelain reflector bowls have been removed from many of the light fixtures.
 - d. Plumbing: The original cast-iron enameled plumbing and water fountains remain in the corridors, toilets and bathrooms.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and orientation: Building T-2002 and the street layout and other buildings of Block 20 are located at the southwestern apex of the Fort McCoy "Triad" design. The building is located within a "semi-isolated" complex containing the base post office, a recreation center and a theater.¹⁹
2. Historical Landscape Design: To the east and rear of the building there is a gravel parking lot. The remainder of the building lot is relatively flat and planted in

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grass. Ornamental shrubs have been planted along the east and west walls.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

A. Architectural Drawings: Building T-2002 was built from 700 series plan number 700-1290 and associated plan numbers 700-1245, 700-1291, 700-1292, 700-1301, 800-190, 800-194, 800-196 and 800-199. The original "As Built" plans used to construct the two guest houses could not be located.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Standard Mobilization Drawings 700 Series Plan number 700-1290* and associated drawings 700-1245*, 700-1291*, 700-1292*, 700-1301, 800-190, 800-194, 800-196 and 800-199. (* These drawings were modified at Ft. McCoy).
- b. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project," General Layout Plan No. 6150-L, May 23, 1942. Record Drawing file 0183 in "As Built" Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
- c. Record Drawing file #183 in "As Built Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
- d. Real Property Record. Building and Structures Building 2145, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
- e. File entitled "Equipment Records", building 2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

2. Secondary and Published sources:

"As Built" file # 183, Building T-2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg. T-2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.

Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building 2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.

"Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy n.d., ca. 1985, p. 6.

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Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. (volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*) (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army).

Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project," General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942. Original blueline print in file cabinet Bldg. T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Bldg. T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Real property records file; Building T-2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Bldg. T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p.1.

Unmarked wooden File Box, Bldg. T-2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignees.

C. Likely Sources Not Investigated:

1. Documentary: Information on the firm charged with the construction of Building T-2002 may be available. Additional data may be available in the National Archives on Col. Hugh J. Casey of the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps who supervised the 1941 revision of the 700 series standardized drawings of which building plan 700-1290 was part.
2. Oral History: Interviews could be conducted with personnel involved in the construction of the guest houses at Fort McCoy and the McCoy records and other military archives could be searched for living personnel who occupied the quarters.

D. Supplemental Materials:

1. The original "As Built" drawings for Building T-2002 could not be located. Standard plans for the 700 series guest house are available from the National Archives.

Prepared by: James A. Glass Ph.D.
Field Supervisor
HABS Phase - Fort McCoy Project
September 1988

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and

Keith Landreth, Richard Hayes
Associate Investigators
CERL Phase - Fort McCoy Project
December 1988

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Fort McCoy was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, Robert J. Kapsch, chief, during the summer of 1988. The project was sponsored by the United States Army, Environmental Office, Colonel Ronald G. Kelsey, chief, with the assistance of Constance W. Ramirez, Historic Preservation Officer for the U.S. Army. Local sponsorship was provided at Fort McCoy by the base Commander, Colonel Sorensen, and by Al Balliett and Marvin Westenburg of the Environmental Division; John Calvert, Engineering Planning and Services Division; and Robert Wells, Real Property. The project was managed through the HABS/HAER WASO office by John A. Burns, architect, and project leader and Catherine Crawford, HABS historian. The documentation was undertaken at the HABS/HAER field office at Fort McCoy by James Glass, HABS/HAER, and by Keith Landreth, U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USACERL), Champaign, Illinois. Large-format photography was done by Martin Stupich.

NOTES:

1. Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.
2. Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building 2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.
3. "As Built" file d 183, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
4. Real property records file; Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Building 2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
5. Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* [volume in the series, United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services] (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army) pp 349.
6. "To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p.1, c. 8.
7. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project--General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942. Original blue-line print in map file cabinet building 2145 "Meatlocker".

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8. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
9. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
10. Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
11. Diane Wasch and Perry Busch, [draft] History of the Design and Construction of Temporary World War II Buildings by the War Department. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 1988 pp 42, 47.
12. Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
13. Ibid.
14. "Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy nd., ca.1985, p 6.
15. Unmarked wooden File Box, building 2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignees.
16. Standard War Department Plan 800-559
17. Box entitled "Equipment Records," building 21A5 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
18. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see Real Property Records box, building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
19. Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.